

DEC 27 2006

Application No. 10/660,102  
Filed: 9/10/03  
TC Art Unit: 3736  
Confirmation No.: 6872REMARKS

The objection to claim 10 has been obviated in view of the amendment thereof.

Claims 1, 11-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aceti (6,540,675).

Applicants traverse the rejection based on Aceti. This reference relates to a device that is placed on the skin of a person for self-testing for glucose levels of diabetics. The Aceti reference does not mention "umbilical cord" anywhere in the document. An umbilical cord is about 1-1.5 an in diameter (see the present application at page 7, line 23) whereas the Aceti device has a circular shape (see Fig. 1) and is "just over two inches in diameter" (Aceti at column 3, lines 3-4), and is designed to be affixed to the "wrists, forearms, upper arms, torso, thighs, calves, ankles, and the like" (Aceti at column 11-12, lines 67 and 1, respectively). The Aceti reference fails to describe a device that is suitable for umbilical cord sampling. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite certain features recited previously in claim 10. Aceti fails to disclose or suggest a device for immobilizing a cord in a cavity.

Claims 3 and 10 have been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Aceti in view of Gruenberg

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(5,690,646). Claims 15-16 and 18-19 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Gruenberg in view of Hessel.

Gruenberg discloses an umbilical cord blood collection device in which an exposed needle 28 is inserted by hand into the cord to deliver blood into a separate bag. Gruenberg does not teach or suggest the use of a removable reservoir within the device, nor the feature of enclosing the needle within the housing. Also, the Hessel reference does not use a needle for blood collection, but rather uses a device to completely sever the cord to access the fluid therein. In summary, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the use of an enclosed housing for use of a needle to collect blood from an umbilical cord section in combination with a reusable fluid reservoir.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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